

# Seattle HIV/AIDS Planning Council

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**Minutes** ☿ June 11, 2007

4:00pm - 6:30pm

**2100 Building – 2100 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, 98144**

**Council Members Present:** *Richard Aleshire, Madeline Brooks, Shireesha Dhanireddy, Jim Elliott, Brandie Flood, Erin Kahle, Craig Kelso, Higinio Martinez, Andrew Murphy, Kris Nyrop, Ron Padgett, Jodie Pezzi, Tony Radovich, David Richart, German Rodriguez, Pam Ryan, Erick Seelbach, Karina Uldall, Bob Wood*

**Council Members Absent:** *Dennis Bookhart, Heath Bouldin, Robert Carroll, Charlie Curvin, Bill Hall, Luis Viquez*

**Members yet to be Appointed by the King County Executive:** Kieu-Anh King

**Council Staff Present:** Jesse Chipps, Harnik Gulati, Natalia Ospina (minutes)

**Health Department Staff Present:** Barb Gamble, Jeff Natter

**Guests:** Justin Hahn (Prevention Planner, Washington State Department of Health), Gerrie LaQuey (Council applicant, Northwest Family Center), Melissa Marsh (UW Social Work intern), Alison Moore (UW Public Health intern), Sarah Kent (BABES Network/YWCA), Cindy Sousa (UW Public Health intern)

*Italics denote Planning Council Membership.*

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## **I. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements**

No announcements were made.

## **II. Meeting Agenda**

CHANGES: Kris requested a few minutes after the SPG update to inform the group about the HIV Prevention Leadership Summit, and Hepatitis C Conference he recently attended.

☒ *The agenda was approved as amended by acclamation.*

## **III. May Meeting Minutes**

☒ *The May 14<sup>th</sup> minutes were approved as written by acclamation.*

## **IV. Grantee Updates**

- Barb Gamble announced the award decision for the innovative program RFP. She noted that two proposals were received for the \$248,000 grant, which will fund an innovative program serving MSM for two years. The grant was awarded to Gay City which proposed to take a mobile video booth to various events in King County and ask men to respond to prevention-related questions on film. The video clips will be placed on the Gay City web site and on U-Tube. Filmmakers, on a quarterly basis, will create a larger documentary comprised of the video clips, which will be presented by Three Dollar

Bill Cinema (the organization which puts on the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival) in conjunction with a community forum for people to talk about the issues raised in the documentary. The prevention planners will be working with Gay City to develop the contract, assess who will own the film, and develop the evaluation component.

Barb announced that Public Health has decided to shift internal resources to community-based counseling and testing for foreign-born Blacks, and is amending contracts with the Center for Multi-Cultural Health and Gay City to prove this outreach-based service. Center for Multi-Cultural Health (CMCH) employees will be doing the outreach and getting people into testing. These same employees will then provide counseling and testing, but will be considered Gay City employees during the time of the actual test due to liability issues. This "change" in employment will not be apparent to those being tested. Counseling will take place at the CMCH offices, and both counseling and testing will also take place in a community outreach setting off site.

In the past, a similar arrangement took place with community agencies and Public Health for testing and counseling, but that is no longer possible due to County policies.

[David Garcia arrived at 4:08 p.m.]

Barb also announced that the main prevention RFP is due on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

- Jeff reported that the FY 2007 supplemental award was announced on 5/23 (his report is attached to the official record). The Seattle TGA received an increase of over \$273,000 from last year, which was \$168,000 more than what was asked for. In response to a question regarding the special dollars which the state legislature allocated to Lifelong AIDS Alliance based on there being a reduction in Ryan White funds, David reminded the group that even though the grant was larger this year, many programs were cut at Lifelong, other community agencies in King County and other parts of the state due to the 75/25% core/support services shift. The state funds are intended to restore those service cuts throughout Washington.

Jeff is still waiting to hear about the MAI award, which is no longer part of the supplemental award process. The MAI funds have already been allocated to medical case management services. Three agencies applied for MAI dollars in medical case management, and should the TGA receive less in MAI funds than expected, the awards for these three agencies will be adjusted accordingly. Jeff plans to know more about the MAI award at the August Planning Council meeting.

[Bob arrived at 4:18 p.m.]

Due to the increase in 2007 funding, the Council will have to reallocate the \$576,000, as it originally planned for a funding cut. Jeff cautioned that unless the Council thought it absolutely necessary, it would be very difficult this late in the year to issue new request for proposals. He reminded the group that the TGA has less than half the year to spend the additional funding.

Jeff reported that Donna Yutzy would be providing QM-related technical assistance to Jeff and Becca this month. He added that Care staff are working with Richard Alshire to develop a state-wide QM program.

Jeff announced that he will be submitting another Ryan White grant in a couple of months. He noted that since the Part A allocation was so large this year, over \$100,000

will have to be given to Snohomish County (another County in the TGA) under the Pooled Parity model.

Jeff informed the Council about new guidance from HRSA regarding allowable services. Of particular note is that alternative therapies can no longer be funded. Housing services and housing assistance were combined. Finally, case management was kept as a support service, medical case management was added as a core service, and client advocacy was dropped. Jeff reminded the group that support services can only be funded if they are linked to documented medical outcomes.

## **V. Prevention Letter of Concurrence**

Barb presented "HIV Prevention Programs 2008 Planned CDC Expenditures (handout attached to official record). "

[Sarah Kent arrived at 4:25 p.m. Madeline arrived at 4:30 p.m.]

Barb requested a letter of concurrence with reservations (because the final allocation of all the funds is unknown) from the Council. Kris suggest that the Council approve a letter of concurrence without reservations and noted that given what Barb has shown the Council, King County is in concurrence with the requirements, spending all CDC and over 50% of Omnibus funds on the Council's priorities. He added that it would be OK to exclude the reservations as long as Barb reported final funding allocations to the Council in October. Jesse reminded the group that a motion needed to be made.

***MOTION: Kris moved that the Council submit a letter of concurrence. Higinio seconded.***

***☑ The motion passed unanimously with 18 in favor.***

[Brandie arrived at 4:51 p.m.]

## **VI. Membership Committee**

Erin reported that the Membership Committee approved forwarding Lina Ali and Maureen McEliece's applications to the Council, however, neither candidates were present for today's meeting. The Committee is still recruiting consumers, and gaps are starting to be filled. A couple of applicants to the Council were introduced: David Garcia and Gerry LaQuey, who is applying to replace Kurt Wuellner as the Ryan White Part D grantee representative. Sarah Kent from BABES was also among the attendees and will be interviewed by the Membership Committee in July.

Erin reminded the Council about the attendance policy and noted that the Membership Committee has decided to revisit the attendance rules once the Council Bylaws are rewritten. As the rules stand now, members are allowed to miss three Planning Council meetings. After the fourth absence members can be moved forward for removal from the Council. However, the Council is currently not fully enforcing this rule. Erin emphasized that members miss out on valuable information that can affect future Council business if they miss meetings. In addition, the absent member is not able to voice his/her opinion on matters. Finally, missing members may prevent the Council from having a quorum, and without quorum, the Council is unable to vote and move forward. Erin noted that the Council is facing a few attendance issues and that certain individuals would be receiving phone calls soon. Erin requested that Council members contact the Membership Committee if they have any ideas for a revised attendance policy.

## **VII. AACT Committee**

Ron reported that the AACT Committee brainstormed on creating a board game for providers and consumers at the last meeting, and also discussed the possibility of the Committee sponsoring a picnic for August.

Ron announced that Dennis Torres and a couple of case managers from the Madison Clinic will be informing the Committee about undocumented Latino immigrants living with AIDS at the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. He encouraged everyone to come.

## **IX. Work, Substance Use and HIV**

Melissa Marsh, Alison Moore and Cindy Sousa presented "Project: Focus Groups for HIV+ communities about workforce issues" (handout attached to official record).

[Kieu-Ahn King left at 5:20 p.m.]

Discussion ensued after the presentation. The following points were made:

- Tony urged the Council to get involved and become advocates. He mentioned that a lot of the men he works with want to return to work to boost their self esteem and prevent themselves from getting back into drugs. He suggested that the Council partner with social service agencies to get a larger voice.
- Jeff informed the group that HRSA funds could not be used for employment issues because of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation's (DVR) existence (federal funds cannot be used redundantly). Several members expressed frustration and negativity towards DVR, as noted in the assessment. Melissa noted that DVR will no longer pay for anybody with HIV to go back to school. She added that they want to place individuals in specific jobs, but not train them in a field that the individual is interested in.
- In response to information in the assessment related to service providers not having as much information about return to work issues, Kris noted that care providers are not as representative of the population with HIV as well as prevention providers are.
- Pam noted that people living with HIV who visit the Madison Clinic are going back to the workforce.
- Melissa informed the Council that case management received good comments from the focus groups.
- Certain members discussed their personal funding sources (disability insurance, Social Security, working under the table, etc.) and their difficulties with employment/dealing with DVR.
- German expressed concern that information was not being disseminated well (i.e., providers were not giving out accurate/helpful information to individuals).

[Shireesha and Pam left at 5:57 p.m.]

## **X. SPG Meeting**

Kris provided and SPG update. He noted that the group is headed towards producing a comprehensive plan to submit to the CDC in late summer or early fall. The group next plans to conduct a review of the regional plans to ensure that they adhere to CDC guidance and seem appropriate.

Kris reported on the HIV Prevention Leadership Summit sponsored by the CDC which had previously been primarily for co-chairs of planning groups. He assured the Council that it is worth sending a representative to these meetings because it provides the opportunity to meet with individuals from other community planning groups, rub shoulders with folks from the CDC, and get to learn what is failing/working for other community planning groups. Kris mentioned being in a session presented by other states about their combined Care and Prevention processes. He was disappointed that IDU were not mentioned in any of the sessions where populations affected by HIV were addressed. Kris announced that sometime probably this year, the CDC will issue its revision of the estimated annual number of new HIV infections, which has been around 40,000 in the US for several years now. There is a rumor that the number will go up. Kris also announced that about \$42-44 million federal dollars could shift into prevention, all of which would go towards increased counseling and testing. However, Kris believes the funding will be directed towards the South and a few major urban areas. Finally, Kris noted that the CDC is trying to flex its muscles against politicians by emphasizing that prevention planning remain at the community planning-level.

Kris reported on the Hepatitis C statewide meeting that occurred last week. He noted that a NASTAD representative was there. He informed the Council that the federal government allocates \$740 million for HIV prevention, and only \$17 million for Hepatitis C prevention. Kris announced that it is possible to use HIV dollars to do Hepatitis C testing as long as a HIV test is performed in the process. If encountered with a population with a Hepatitis C problem, the County could use Hepatitis C testing to lure individuals to get HIV tests done as well. Kris urged the Council to discuss how to integrate Hepatitis C prevention into HIV prevention especially with IDU in the next round of prevention prioritization.

#### **XI. Other Business/ July 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Brandie inquired if there was going to be a Council meeting in August to which Jesse replied that the Executive Committee would have to discuss this.

Erin announced that Tony received a Fruit Bowl award for his work with Strength Over Speed from the LGBT Community Center. The award was for an individual who works within the community to promote gay, bisexual men, and transgender health issues.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007, 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. at **SAFECO Jackson Street Center - 306 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South, Seattle, 98122**

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE LOCATION CHANGE\*\***